

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SUGGESTION FOR MEETING BETWEEN DIRECTORS OF
CNRS AND NSF

SUMMARY: CNRS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MADE DIRECT
BUT INFORMAL SUGGESTION THAT DIRECTORS OF CNRS AND NSF
MEET TO DISCUSS OVERALL SCIENCE AFFAIRS. WE RECOMMEND
FAVORABLE LOW KEY RESPONSE, ENCOURAGING CNRS AND DGRST
DIRECTORS TO VISIT THE US AT A TIME WHEN NSF DIRECTOR
COULD RECEIVE THEM.

1. MADAME MIRABEL, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR
THE CENTRE NATIONALE DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS)
BEGAN APRIL 15 MEETING WITH VISITING NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION (NSF) OFFICIAL UZNANSKI AND SCIATT BY ASKING
THEIR OPINION OF THE IDEA OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE NEW
CNRS DIRECTOR BERNARD GREGORY AND NSF DIRECTOR
STEVE FOR AN OVERALL DISCUSSION OF GENERAL SCIENCE AC-
TIVITIES. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS JUST AN IDEA SHE
WANTED TO SUGGEST FOR CONSIDERATION. SCIATT AND
UZNANSKI REPLIED IN POSITIVE TERMS WITHOUT MAKING ANY
COMMITMENTS.

2. MADAME MIRABEL ADDED THAT DR. GREGORY SPEAKS ENGLISH
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FLUENTLY, IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN, HOLDS A PH.D. FROM

A U.S. UNIVERSITY (MIT) AND FORMERLY WORKED AT CERN WHERE HE INTENSIFIED HIS INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. GREGORY HAS HEADED THE CNRS FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, SHE CONTINUED, AND WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS NOW IN HAND, HE IS PREPARED TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THOUGH NOT SPECIFYING A PARTICULAR DATE OR PLACE, SHE IMPLIED A PREFERENCE FOR HOLDING SUGGESTED MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN THE U.S.

3. COMMENT: MIRABEL WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO SUGGEST SUCH AN IDEA WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM HER SUPERIOR, GREGORY. WHILE EMBASSY SUPPORTS HER SUGGESTION FOR A STEVER-GREGORY MEETING, NEVERTHELESS THERE ARE COMPLICATING FACTORS; NAMELY, THE ON-GOING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE AND AN OUTSTANDING EARLIER INVITATION FROM STEVER TO THE THEN-MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT CHARBONNEL. IF IT IS DECIDED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE RESPONSE BE MADE IN A LOW-KEY MANNER; FOR EXAMPLE, A RESPONSE TO MADAME MIRABEL FROM UZNANSKI OR THROUGH SCIATT. IN ADDITION, THE RESPONSE SHOULD INCLUDE GREGORY'S PREDECESSOR AND SUPERIOR, PROF. HUBERT CURIEN, WHO NOW HEADS THE DELEGATION GENERALE A LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE (DGRST) AND IS ALSO INTERESTED IN MAKING OFFICIAL VISIT TO US. FINALLY RESPONSE SHOULD BE PUT IN FRAMEWORK OF EARLIER INVITATION TO CHARBONNEL, THUS PUTTING IT IN TIMEFRAME WELL BEFORE ONGOING ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

IRWIN

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